Mr Andrew Murray

The title of Honorary Fellow was conferred upon Andrew Murray at the Arts ceremony held at 11.30am on 12 May 2006.

Andrew Murray at the conferring ceremony as the citation is read, photo, copyright Memento Photography.

Andrew Murray with Chancellor the Hon Justice Kim Santow after the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow, 12 May 2006, photo, copyright Memento Photography.

Citation

Chancellor, I present Andrew Murray for the conferring of the title, Honorary Fellow of the University.

Andrew Murray was a student at the University of Sydney and a resident of St Andrew's College from 1961 to 1966, graduating with degrees in Science and Civil Engineering. In 1966 he was elected by his peers to the position of St Andrew's College Senior Student. During his time at University he played elite level Rugby for the College, the University and in 1969 represented Australian Universities. He was awarded a University Rugby Blue in 1966 and was a member of the 1968 First Grade Premiership winning side.

Mr Murray has continued his involvement with the University of Sydney through Rugby and St Andrews
College. He was President of the Sydney University Rugby Club from 1983 to 1986 and steered the Club from Second Division back into First Division where it has remained ever since. He represented the University on the Executives of Sydney and NSW Rugby Unions, was a Director of NSW Rugby Union from 1987 to 1991 and again in 1996 and was Deputy Chairman of the Australian Rugby Union from 1989 to 1990.

In addition, Mr Murray was President of the Australian Universities Rugby Union from 1993 to 2003 introducing the annual match against New Zealand Universities. Mr Murray is currently the Chairman of the Sydney University Football Club Foundation Appeal which has raised over $2 million to support University Sport.

Mr Murray was awarded an Australian Sports Medal in 2000 for services to Australian sport.

Mr Murray is also a Trustee of the National Parks and Wildlife Foundation of NSW and is on the Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Mr Murray was a member of the St Andrew's College Council from 1984 to 2002 and was Chairman of the Council from 1999 to 2002. He is currently Deputy Chairman of the St Andrew's College Foundation which has recently raised over $1 million to support developments at the College. He continues to serve as a financial adviser to the College Council.

During his period of Chairman of the St Andrew's College Council, Mr Murray devoted a large amount of his personal time to promoting the case to change St Andrew's College from a single gender male College (since 1867) to one which admitted women and men. This decision was made at a special Council Meeting chaired by Mr Murray on 11 November 2001 and the first women undergraduates were admitted as College residents in February 2002.

This issue had been widely and passionately debated during the three years prior to the decision by College Alumni, residents and others in the University of Sydney community. Mr. Murray attended and chaired these forums in a variety of locations and at times which considerably dislocated his professional and personal life. During these years some of his long-standing Alumni friendships were strained due to his support of the co-residency proposal, nevertheless he persisted with these open meetings because he and most other College Councillors at the time believed the educational and social opportunities of a University of Sydney residential College should be available to both genders.

The change to a co-residential St Andrew's College in February 2002 is now widely accepted as a sensible decision which has been "very successful".

Much of the credit for the College Council decision in November 2001 was due to the persistence and foresight of Mr Andrew Murray. In addition his continued wise interest in the process of implementing the change to co-residency has been pivotal in the successful transition which has now given rise to the need for expansion of the College. A new wing, due for completion in February 2007, is under construction to accommodate a further 35 students.

This need for expansion of St Andrew's College is due to several factors, particularly the co-residency decision so effectively promoted by Mr Andrew Murray.

Chancellor, I present Andrew Murray and invite you to confer upon him the title, Honorary Fellow of the University.